

References.

- ⁽¹⁾ HINTON, H. E. (1939).—"An enquiry into the natural classification of the Dryopoidea, based partly on a study of the internal anatomy", *Trans. R. ent. Soc.*, 89, pp. 33-184.
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- ⁽³⁾ CARTER, H. J., and ZECK, E. H.—*L.c.*, p. 53.

A NEW AQUARIUM FISH FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.

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(Contribution from The Australian Museum, Sydney.)

In November, 1947, an attractive aquarium fish was introduced to the notice of Sydney fish-fanciers from the Coen district, North Queensland. The novelty reminded them somewhat of the Cichlids, being prettily patterned and similarly shaped, actively moving all the time and chasing one another as if to make a grab as the Cichlids do. But the Cichlidae are mostly native to South America and Africa and do not occur in Australian rivers, and it was soon evident that ours was a Terapontid fish.

Thanks to Mr. W. C. Roberts, of Austral Aquariums, and Mr. J. C. Woore (whose cousin had originally collected the fishes in Queensland), I saw the living fishes and received a specimen for the Australian Museum. On investigation this species proved to be a new one and is named below.

Family TERAPONTIDAE.

Genus LEIOPOTHERAPON Fowler, 1931.

Leiopotherapon suavis, sp. nov.

Br., 6; D.xii, 14; A.iii, 11; P., 16; V.i, 5; C., 15 branched rays. L. lat., 53. Sc., c.50. Tr., 10/1/20.

Head (22 mm.) 2.8, depth (25) 2.4 in standard length (62). Eye equal to maxillary (7), greater than interorbital which equals snout (5), the latter 2 in postorbital (10).

Head rather pointed, profile obliquely sloping, not concave before eyes. Preopercle serrated, other opercles and the preorbital entire. Lower opercular spine barely reaching opercular lobe. Top, bottom and front of head before eyes naked, rest scaly. Cheek-scales in seven rows below eyes. Posterior nostril large and circular, well separated from the inconspicuous anterior nostril. Some pores around preorbital and mucous canals each side of the broadly convex interorbital. Lips normal; jaws subequal. Premaxillary pedicels more than half eye. Gape oblique. Angle of maxillary not covered by lip and not reaching eye. A single row of conic teeth around each jaw with interior bands of villiform ones crossing symphyses. Vomer and palatines toothless. Gill-openings wide, gill-membranes united across narrow isthmus. Body deep, compressed, covered with sculptured ctenoid scales. Supracleithrum covered by scales, ending with few denticles. Lateral line complete with simple tubes. Dorsal and to a less extent anal with basal scaly sheaths. Dorsal spines heteracanth, last ray divided to base. Sixth to eighth dorsal spines longest but shorter than the rays, penultimate spine longer than last. Soft dorsal and anal convex. Second anal spine longest; last anal ray divided to base. Upper pectoral rays longest. Ventrals pointed, reaching vent. Caudal truncate.

Colours of live aquarium specimens: Ground colour of head and body yellowish-cream densely criss-crossed by a pattern of brownish-grey. On the head the dark marks form oblique bars on the cheeks and reticulation elsewhere. On the body there are about five to eight irregular cross-bars and about seven to ten longitudinal bands, but these are broken up in places by splashes of the lighter ground-colour. Most of the caudal peduncle is dark, with two to four patches of light ground-colour. Top of head plain, pale olivaceous with pinkish tinge. A dark spot between gills and pectoral axil. Pupil of eye dark blue, iris coppery.

Fins plain, pale or infuscated but without definite markings. Ventrals dark. Sometimes a pinkish or greenish tinge apparent and the general hues change slightly in the living fish. (The pectorals, caudal, soft dorsal and anal are mainly used in swimming. Sometimes they shelter under water weed leaves.)

Colour in alcohol: Ground-colour creamy, densely overlaid by irregular subhorizontal and subvertical dark grey bars and bands giving roughly a draughtsboard-like pattern. The cream ground is most evident on lower flanks and just before root of tail. Top of head olivaceous. Breast very light grey, unmarked. First dorsal olivaceous to greyish with no large dark blotch; other fins grey to yellowish, plain. Cheeks and opercles crossed by bars of dark grey or brown and creamy. Most fin-membranes dark.

Described from the holotype, a specimen 62 mm. in standard length or 3 inches overall. Austr. Mus. regd. no. IB.1982.

Loc.—Coen district, North Queensland.

This new species is quite distinct from its congeners, being distinguished by the form and formulae of the fins, the coloration and other characters as described above. Probably nearest *Terapon habbema* Weber, 1910, from southern rivers of Dutch New Guinea, but with lower first and higher second dorsal fins, cross-bars well marked, more rays, larger eye, etc. *T. adamsoni* Trewavas, 1940, from Lake Kutubu, New Guinea, is plain-coloured.

“NATURE SPEAKS” OVER 2GB.

A new kind of “Brains Trust” session, of interest to nature-lovers and zoologists alike, has been inaugurated by the Macquarie Broadcasting Network under the sponsorship of Mr. E. J. L. Hallstrom, F.R.Z.S. Station 2GB, Sydney, now broadcasts “Nature Speaks” on Saturday evenings at 7.45 o’clock, E.S. time. A panel of experts, all of whom are members of the Royal Zoological Society, answers (and welcomes) listeners’ questions about any form of animal life, in fact, “anything that walks, burrows, crawls, flies or swims”. The idea of the new Nature Quiz is not to “stump” the experts so much as to elicit accurate and attractively presented information on all faunal and zoological matters, particularly with regard to the protection of our native animals, whose conservation will be at all times favoured. Under the genial direction of Mr. John Dease, “Nature Speaks” assures listeners of an entertaining and instructive half-hour. Members of the panel are Messrs. H. Brown, J. R. Kinghorn, R. Patten, E. Troughton and G. P. Whitley.